



The Gavel

Newsletter of the Lycoming County Paralegal Association

High School Mock Trial Competitions

The Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association sponsors the statewide high school mock trial competition. LCPA members were again invited to volunteer to serve as jurors. For those who served, this was an excellent opportunity to watch young people debate, advocate and get excited about the legal process. This competition provides high school students with a firsthand experience of the judicial system.

This year the fact pattern was a criminal action against a real estate developer. The charge was reckless homicide stemming from the death of two people at a construction site after a crane collapse.

All the high school teams did a commendable job and the student participants were articulate and passionate.

Serving as jurors for the high school mock trial competitions is an enjoyable way for us in the legal community to demystify the judicial process and encourage young people to pursue careers in legal profession.

LAW DAY

**The LCPA in conjunction with the LLA will be celebrating Law Day
on May 3rd at 4:00PM in the Courtroom #1**

This year the theme is “Realizing the Dream: Equality for All”

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. In 1963 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon our nation to live up to the promise of equality and today his “I Have A Dream” speech continues to challenge Americans to strive to achieve equality for all.

LCPA reusable tote bags for sale! Help save the environment and promote the Lycoming County Paralegal Association



For a \$3 donation to the LCPA you can have a reusable tote bag.
For a \$5 donation you can have two reusable totes.

The tote bags are navy blue and feature our logo in light blue. They are sturdy and useful.

Scholarships at Penn College:

The LCPA recently submitted \$250.00 to Penn College to fund the Maxine Stiffler/LCPA Scholarship. The award is given to a student in the third or fourth year of Penn College's Legal Assistant/Paralegal program. The student must be pursuing a bachelor's degree. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Our scholarship honors its namesake, Maxine Stiffler, deceased, by giving preference to non-traditional student applicants.

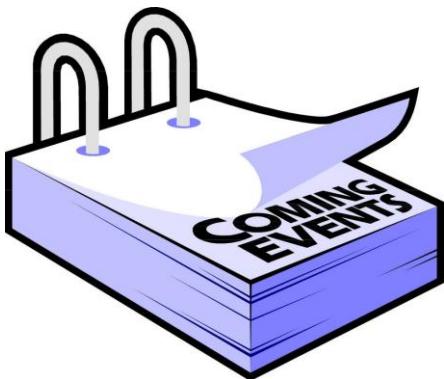
The LCPA also funds a \$150.00 Outstanding Senior Project Award at Penn College.



The LCPA Job Bank accepts employment postings for positions currently available.

Advertisements placed by attorneys and law firms are free.

Contact Michele Frey at Lepley, Engelman & Yaw (323-3768 or MicheleF@lepleylaw.com).



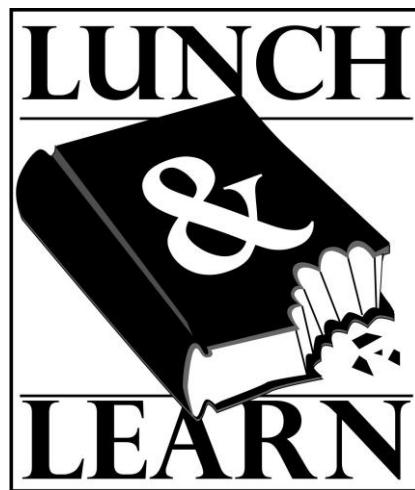
The LCPA is looking forward to having the following speakers host Lunch and Learn events in 2013:

Attorney Trisha Hoover – May
Topic: To Be Announced

Mark Your Calendar: **April 29th**
Assistant District Attorney Aaron Biichle
The Criminal Process from Incident to Sentencing

On March 13th Attorney Ron Travis hosted a Lunch and Learn about jury selection in capital cases commonly called “The Colorado Method.” The approach, which is being utilized in many death penalty federal cases, is a method by which a defense attorney categorizes potential jury members according to their stance on capital punishment. This method, which essentially embraces the prosecution’s evidence instead of trying to exclude it, helps to inform jury members to the heinousness of the crime at the jury selection stage and assists the defense in isolating and striking jury members who are extremely favorable to sentences of death.

Attorney Travis is a very knowledgeable and captivating speaker. Indeed, many of the paralegals and lawyers in attendance have commented that they would have enjoyed listening to Attorney Travis speak all day about this topic.



The LCPA would like to thank Attorney Brad Hillman for allowing us to utilize the conference room at Casale & Bonner for our Lunch and Learn meetings. His office is conveniently located so that our members can easily pick up lunch at Julie's just before the start of our Lunch and Learn events.



New Members Are Joining

The LCPA welcomes new member **Melissa Keller**. She is a paralegal at Casale and Bonner. She works for Attorney Norm Lubin and primarily is involved with cases pertaining to bankruptcy, workers compensation and social security.

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Michele Frey is the 2013 editor of The Gavel.
If anyone has any articles or contributions to The Gavel,
please contact Michele at MicheleF@lepleylaw.com



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Legal Laughs

An attorney was on his deathbed in the hospital. When a friend came to visit, he found the lawyer frantically leafing through the Bible. "What are you doing?" the visitor asked. The sick lawyer replied, "Looking for loopholes."



"No, I said 'paralegals'."



Members are urged to join a committee:
Membership, NFPA, Continuing Education, Job Bank, Service Project, Finance and Newsletter.